

REMARKS

The Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action dated September 20, 2006.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 3-14, 16-28, 30-53 and 56-57 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner pointed out that the phrase "such as" in claims 3, 8, 16, and 30, rendered the claims indefinite, because it was unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. Applicants have amended claims 3, 8, 16, and 30, by deleting the phrase "such as a human," from each of these claims.

The Examiner also rejected claim 16, because the terms "the body", "the surface" and "the hole" did not have proper antecedent basis in the claim. Applicants have amended claim 16 by inserting the phrase "said device having a body with a surface and a hole, and" to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim terms. These terms are fully supported by the Applicants' specification. See, for example, page 2, lines 15-19, and page 4, lines 8-13.

Similarly, Claim 30 was rejected, because the terms "the intra-articular component", "the component", and "said component" lacked antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 30 by deleting the definite article "the" and inserting the indefinite article "an" before "intra-articular component" and replacing the phrase "the component" with "the intra-articular component" to correct the antecedent basis.

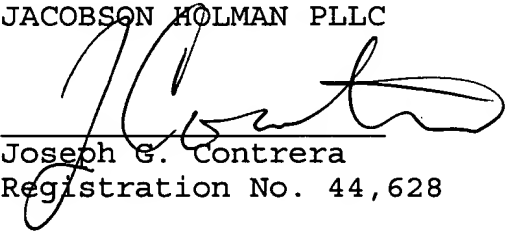
Finally, Applicants have corrected a typographical error in claims 56-57 where "intra-articular" was misspelled.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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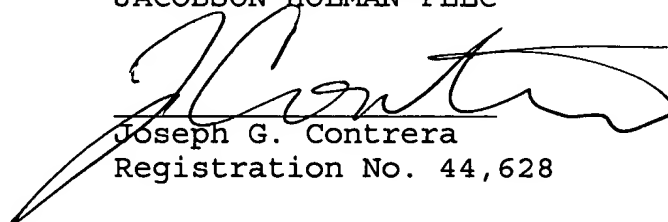
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